



# HEARTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST DISTRICT • SPRING 2003

## New Training Team for Right Relations & Conflict Engagement

By *Mary Andrus-Overley, District Exec.*

Our congregations are our laboratories for creating healthy, loving, and just communities as a model for the larger world. Yet, being human organizations, they are also settings in which we practice and witness a range of interactions from minor disagreements to small-scale civil war. Too often, congregants and staff are unable to manage the inevitable conflicts of group life in constructive ways that lead to creative new solutions, and people get hurt, destroy friendships, leave, or get forced out.

Congregations in Heartland District now have a new resource to help them in their efforts to do community well. With the help of a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, the six Middle America Districts of which Heartland is a part have just created and trained new resource teams from each of the participating districts. These teams will now offer training in their districts for congregational teams to help their congregations work toward right relations and manage conflict constructively.

The members of the new Heartland District Team are **Susan Bookout** from Bloomington, **Linda Eppert** from Cincinnati, **Bernie Novgorodoff** from the Louisville area, and **Lad Vidergar** from Bloomfield Hills. The Heartland District Team will showcase their services for congregations in a workshop at the 2003 District Annual Meeting and Spring Conference in Lexington. They will roll out their full training services for interested congregational teams at next year's Fall Training Institute, scheduled for the Fort Wayne area on the weekend of September 26–28, 2003. Watch for future publicity and registration details for the Fall Training Institute.

This new service expands upon the Congregational Consultant services provided by other teams for congregations holding board retreats, initiating vision/mission/long range planning work, or experiencing ministerial transition. Information about all these services is available through the Heartland District Office at 888-948-4883 (toll free) or [de@heartlanduu.org](mailto:de@heartlanduu.org). ◆

## HUUD Spring Board Report

By *Doug Taylor, VP Administration*

The board started this meeting with check-in and worship. This is the usual practice of the board, as we remind ourselves that we work within the UU movement.

**Sara Clavez**, president, presented a report focusing on how the board can help congregations. Redevelopment is seen as action to reenergize a church or fellowship. The district presidents' group is studying redevelopment in response to a shift in how the UUA is helping congregations and approaching starting up congregations. The board had lively conversation about the topic, which generated much energy during the meeting.

Board linkages continue to be built as board members call churches throughout the district. Two new congregations have formed in the past year, and one is currently gathering momentum: Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids, and Warsaw, respectively. **French Eason** reported on membership. The Heartland District is up 22% over the past 10 years. We have 55 churches and 8,148 members in the district.

Mary presented a report on financial planning and budgeting. A discussion of asset protection followed, due to the fraud that occurred in the fall. An audit has brought forth suggested improvements for our accounting practices.

Office procedures have been reviewed and revised to reflect the changes suggested by French Eason (VP Finance) and the auditor. The board is confident that adequate precautions are in place currently to avoid future problems.

Voting processes were reviewed for the UUA Trustee election, to be held at this spring's annual meeting in Lexington, KY. **The voting polls will close at 10:00 a.m. promptly.** The Board extends a formal invitation to attend the annual meeting to all ministers in our district.

We spent time reviewing the budget and the projected use of the planned excesses to balance the budget. We will use the overages to pay part of the program position we have been planning to hire.

**Gini Courter** made a UUA Trustee report. She stated that there will be many new faces on the UUA board after this election cycle: 11 of 25 members will be new. The UUA board wants congregations to approach discussions on Iraq carefully. Churches need to keep space to have authentic conversations about the issues. Gini reported that the UUA's new direction is to finance start-ups that are destined to be large congregations. It is currently piloting a large church start-up strategy, which includes establishment in high growth urban areas, marketing, and a full staff. Districts will have to pick up the costs associated with the small church start-ups that we have had in the past. The stock market shift has cost the UUA endowment \$25 million.

Future board meetings include the board retreat, June 6–8. We will invite the program council to join us on this weekend. This event will provide an opportunity to orient both new board members and program council members to the mission and organization of the Heartland District. We also hope to involve our soon-to-be-hired program person. ◆



**Help spread the light of  
Unitarian Universalism.  
Become a ChaliceLighter.**

**ChaliceLighters** are called to help when the contribution of our resources will make a difference in a specially selected, growth-related project. **Chalice-Lighters** may be called up to three times per year. When each project is completed, they are notified of its success. Lots of little lights can build a warm flame of helping. Send in this form and become part of the light.

*Enroll me as a Heartland ChaliceLighter. I will respond promptly to a call to light a chalice—no more than three times per year—in the following amount:*

\_\_\_ \$10      \_\_\_ \$25      \_\_\_ \$50      \_\_\_ Specify

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Society \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **ChaliceLighters**, Heartland District, 445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1889. Fax to: 317-634-5385.

## Heartline

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445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330  
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(888) 948-HUUD (4883) fax 317-634-5385 www.uua.org/heartland

**District Executive** Mary Andrus-Overley 888-948-HUUD de@heartlanduua.org  
**Office Administrator** Barbara Hamilton 888-948-4883 office@heartlanduua.org

### Heartland Leadership

<b>President</b>	Sara Clavez	517-687-7003	sclavez@tds.net
<b>Vice President—Finance</b>	French Eason	317-876-9862	frenchesas@aol.com
<b>Vice President—Admin.</b>	Doug Taylor	812-949-0411	dougdtg@aol.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Alice Hill	517-339-4398	hilla@pilot.msu.edu
<b>Member At Large</b>	Kyle Bagnall	989-689-6522	acanum@cs.com
<b>Member At Large</b>	Sally Borden	313-533-1494	sally233@aol.com
<b>Member At Large</b>	Teresa Putnam	517-351-6748	tputnam@attbi.com
<b>Member At Large</b>	Connie Haas Zuber	219-456-4132	chzuber@comcast.net
<b>Communication</b>	Rev. Todd Eklöf	502-899-1337	todd@cliftonunitarian.com
<b>Extension</b>	Bill Dodson	810-632-7199	rollo@ismi.net
<b>Lifespan Religious Ed.</b>	Laura Spencer	734-665-6158	uudre1@aol.com
<b>Social Justice</b>	Jackie Hall	812-332-6451	jmhall@indiana.edu
<b>Youth/Rep</b>	Janelle Shilling	859-252-1336	jog1185@aol.com
<b>UUMA Representative</b>	Rev. Norman Naylor	248-552-1937	wwnd36@msn.com
<b>MUUC Representative</b>	Veronica Smith	313-824-2702	vsmith508@aol.com
<b>MUUC Representative</b>	Susan Porter	317-251-7346	mrsporter@aol.com
<b>UUA District Trustee</b>	Gini Courter		gcourter@uua.org

**Please send news or articles to:** Tiffany Taylor, Editor  
1001 Oakland Drive, New Albany, IN 47150  
(812) 949-0411 • E-mail HeartlineNews@aol.com  
*Next newsletter deadline: May 1, 2003*

## 4th Annual Choral Festival

The **UU Church of Indianapolis** will host the fourth annual Heartland Choral Festival on May 17–18, 2003. UUI Music Director **Karen Cooksey**, who also serves as Assistant Choral Director



at Earlham College, will lead the festival choir in a performance of Libby Larsen's *Missa Gaia: Mass for the Earth*.

UU singers from the Midwest are invited to come, meet musicians from the area, and explore this music and its meaning, as the composer reflects on our relationship to our planet through her text selection and musical ideas.

The **registration deadline is April 1**; the \$28 fee includes the cost of the sheet music (which will be mailed in advance) and a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Home hospitality and childcare are available. For more information (including a registration brochure), contact the church office (317-283-4760) or check the website [www.heartlandchoralfest.org](http://www.heartlandchoralfest.org). ♦

## Social Justice Internships Available

The UUA's Social Justice Internship Program (based in the Washington Office for Advocacy) is accepting applications for 2003–2004 internships. Three internship positions are available, focusing on: Economic Justice, Racial Justice, and Women's Issues.

The goal of the UUA Social Justice Internship Program is to combine service, learning, and faith development in order to produce energetic young adults with the professional skills and strength of character to be lifelong leaders in fighting for social justice. The program requires a time commitment of 11 months in which interns invest their time and energy in three main areas: Advocacy, Community Service, and Theological Reflection. The application form can be found on-line at [www.uua.org/uawo/new/article.php?id=87](http://www.uua.org/uawo/new/article.php?id=87). ♦

# UUA Office of Charitable Giving & Estate Planning

Did you know that the UUA Office of Charitable Giving & Estate Planning helps individual UUs make charitable gifts to their congregations? Two of the best ways to donate are through **bequests** and **life-income gifts**, and the OCGEP is here to assist with both.

With *life-income gifts*, you make an irrevocable contribution, usually of cash or securities, and may claim an immediate, one-time charitable income tax deduction for a portion of your gift. Your gift is added to the *Gift Annuity Fund* or the *Pooled Income Fund* at State Street Bank and, when you die, the remaining principle of the gift is given to your congregation or the UUA—or a combination of both. *Life-income gifts* are an excellent way to make charitable donations while retaining some income. However, they are more complicated to administer than outright charitable donations, so the UUA manages these gifts on behalf of member congregations.

*Bequests* are also a great way to make charitable donations. Your will can indicate that you would like to donate a

specific amount, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate, to your congregation or to the UUA. The OCGEP provides individuals and congregations with the simple language they need to include a gift to Unitarian Universalism in their will.

For more information, call (617) 948-4643, or visit [www.uua.org/giftplans](http://www.uua.org/giftplans). ◆

## Link Home and Church with *uu&me!*

You can learn and grow together with *uu&me!*, the only UU magazine for kids. Regular features include stories about the real-life decisions kids make, holiday celebrations, famous UUs in history and today, religious beliefs around the world, nature activities that nurture good relationships with the earth, plus games, puzzles and crafts.

This quarterly magazine targets children 6–12 but is read and enjoyed by families with younger children as well. U.S. subscriptions are \$17.95.

*uu&me!* is published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship in Boston. Check out the archives at [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org). To subscribe, go to [www.uua.org/uume/subscribe](http://www.uua.org/uume/subscribe). Or, mail your check, along with your name and address and your child's name to: CLF-uu&me!, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. ◆

## UU Pamphlets Online

All [uua.org](http://uua.org) pamphlets are now available on the UUA website for review and perusal before purchase. Go to [www.uua.org/pamphlet/pamphlets.html](http://www.uua.org/pamphlet/pamphlets.html) to review the pamphlets; each pamphlet listing has a quick link to the UUA bookstore to make purchasing easier. ◆

## Young Adult Housing at GA

Housing for young adults at this summer's UUA General Assembly is available as a cheaper option for people who like to hang out with young adults or whose budget can't handle the hotel rates. The GA Young Adult Caucus leadership decided to make these rooms available to everyone (not just YAs) in order to increase the financial accessibility of GA for all.

Hotel rooms (3 single beds per room, private baths) are available at the Fenway Hostel for \$210 per person/bed (triple occupancy) total for the five nights of GA, and hostel rooms (6 single beds per room, shared bath) at the Hemenway Hostel are available for \$145 per person/bed total for five nights. A limited number of rooms are available for the two nights before GA as well. Anyone under 18 *must* stay in the same room as a parent/guardian. Visit [www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/ga\\_housing.html](http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/ga_housing.html) for more information. ◆

## Borden Sermon Award Deadline Extended

A major new award, the Borden Sermon Award, had been established in an effort to promote excellence in UU sermons. A generous grant was made by an anonymous donor to allow the UUA to present this award. The original deadline of March 1 has been extended to March 15, and all UU fellowshiped ministers are invited to participate by submitting one sermon of their choice for consideration. The top three sermons will be awarded \$10,000 each, with two additional honorable mention awards of \$2,500. Complete submission guidelines can be found at: [www.uua.org/Ministry/bordenawardsub.html](http://www.uua.org/Ministry/bordenawardsub.html).

Several other sermon awards are being offered this year: The Annual Program Fund Sermon Award, The Beacon Press Sermon Award, the Skinner Sermon Award, and others. More information about these awards can be found at: [www.uua.org/awards](http://www.uua.org/awards). ◆

### Wilderness Canoeing Trips At Unirondack

A Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center in Lowville, New York



A marvelous opportunity to explore the Adirondack Park on one of our six canoeing adventures. Before leaving Camp Unirondack, participants will learn canoeing safety and practice their canoeing skills. Tuesday morning will be the start of four days and three nights of wilderness canoeing. Program fees: \$295-\$450. Each canoe trip will have seven participants and two professional leaders.

**WILDERNESS CANOEING I - July 20-26, 2003**  
Youth entering 6th - 9th Grades

**WILDERNESS CANOEING II - August 3-9, 2003**  
Youth entering 7th - 12th Grades

**WILDERNESS CANOEING III - August 17-23, 2003**  
Youth entering 9 - 12th Grades

**FAMILY CANOEING TRIP I - July 13-19, 2003**

**FAMILY CANOEING TRIP II - August 10-16, 2003**

**ADULT CANOEING - August 25-29, 2003**  
Adults over 40 years old

Director, Nat Shed

WINTER - (September 2 to June 11)  
25 Burleigh Street, Waterville, ME 04901-7303  
Phone / Fax (207) 872-0455

SUMMER - (June 12 to August 26)  
8722 Unirondack Road, Lowville, NY 13367  
Phone / Fax (315) 376-6888

[director@unirondack.org](mailto:director@unirondack.org) [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org)

# Trustee Candidates Introduce Themselves

At the Heartland District Annual Meeting in April, we will elect a new Trustee to represent the district on the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees. We have two excellent candidates for this important position. In the following statements, they introduce themselves to you.

## Sue Boyce

**Birmingham Unitarian Church,  
Bloomfield Hills, MI**

I believe in connections. Connections enrich our lives, give us strength, give us courage, give us power. Connections bring delight and serendipity. Fostering connections within our Association can help us grow, as individuals and as institutions, and better enable us to serve our communities. Knowing that one is not alone, as a congregation, or as an individual, gives a sense of the possible. In seeking the position of Heartland Trustee to the UUA Board, I hope to increase the connections that can enrich us all, and help our world in these troubled times.

I have been UU Musicians' Network (UUDoM) Liaison since 1993. In that capacity I have attempted to bring music staff persons together, at least figuratively, through newsletter articles and workshops. By sharing sources and resources, music professionals can better serve their congregations and enhance the quality of worship. In 1999, my home congregation, Birmingham Unitarian Church (BUC), hosted the annual UUMN Summer Conference. It was my privilege to plan and coordinate workshops, activities, housing, and transportation for about 150 UUMN members.

As Mountain Ambassador, I have connected my congregation with The Mountain UU Camp and Conference Center, in Highlands, NC, in five congregational retreats. At the most recent retreat, 113 BUCers came together to build community with each other and with the many Mountain staff and volunteers. The strong example of social justice work and the spiritual enrichment provided by The Mountain has inspired our members in their personal lives and in work with the Association and our congregation.

It was my joy to sing in the BUC Choir for 24 years. During that time, I helped to coordinate two European concert tours that connected us to Unitarian congregations in The Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. In 1996, I coordinated a joint concert tour of Great Britain for the BUC Choir and the choir of First Unitarian, Cincinnati, meeting with and singing for Unitarian congregations in six communities. In 2000 I returned to England with a concert tour of Mountain-Song, a small vocal ensemble made up of singers from BUC, First Unitarian Cincinnati, Heritage UU, Cincinnati, and The Mountain. For that tour, I arranged concerts for seven Unitarian congregations. Seeing our European counterpoints has made us cognizant of the wonderful resources we have in this country just as it has given the European Unitarians encouragement and support.

The tours were so successful, and the connections so enriching to the participants, that from 1990–2001, I arranged weekend tours for the BUC Choir to UU congregations within 5–7 hours from our home base. During that time we visited 12 congregations in 9 communities. Locally, we shared music and fellowship with both Detroit's First UU Church and the Grosse Pointe UU Church. In every instance, meeting UUs and seeing how other congregations operate gave the members of the BUC Choir inspiration, and strengthened our bonds with one another and between the congregations.

In 1995, I served as the local coordinator for the visiting British Unitarian Choir. Connections made during that time with our British coreligionists are still being enjoyed on both sides of the ocean.

Within BUC, I have served on many committees and coordinated many parties and celebrations for our 600+ members. Playing together is another way people can make connections. Parties, tours, and retreats have enriched our congregational life, not only binding us more closely, but through shared experiences, bringing new ideas and approaches to our church as we have witnessed how other UU congregations operate.

Connections can occur spontaneously, but I believe that careful planning and a little effort can foster those connections being made. I hope my organizational skills will enable me to facilitate connections between congregations in our district. There is so much that needs to be

done in this world to bring about peace and social justice, and no one can do it all. But I believe that working together, we of liberal faith can do a great deal. It is my hope that I can in some small way enhance the efforts of our individual lives and congregations. If elected Heartland Trustee, I will use my organizational strengths, and I pledge to listen and learn so that we may all benefit from our collective energies and rich connections.

## Charles Redd

**Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Fort Wayne, IN**

I have been a UU for over 30 years and have served on the Board of the former Ohio Valley as its Vice President. I am currently completing a six-year term on the UUA's Commission on Appraisal, which authored studies on polity, membership, and currently "Unity in Diversity."

I have also served as the Board President in Fort Wayne and as an Interdistrict consultant. I am currently on the Heartland District nominating committee.

My motto is shared with many others: "My personal faith (UU) focuses on practice. My intentional life is based upon mutual respect, understanding, and compassion for others."

Rev. Theodore Parker said: "We look to the future, a future to be made, a church whose creed is truth, whose worship is love, a society full of industry, wisdom, and the poetry of life; a state with unity among all, with freedom for each, a church without tyranny, a society without want, a state without oppression, a world with no war. Shall this ever become fact? History says 'no.' Human nature says 'yes.'" All of my adult life has been dedicated to providing service to those in need. My participation has been with others who subscribe to the same things that Parker has said. In my opinion, the only way to demonstrate our common Unitarian Universalist beliefs is by putting our faith in action.

As your representative to the UUA Board, our united voices will be heard. This is essential in order for the Heartland District in partnership with the UUA Board of Trustees to grow healthy congregations.

This is why I am a candidate. ◆

## Annual Meeting Exhibits

A number of exhibits will be on display during the Heartland Annual Meeting:

- UUA / Beacon Bookstore
- Midwest Leadership School
- Craft tables, arranged by the UU Church of Lexington
- “Empty Bowls” fund raiser for the Bluegrass Adopt a Minefield Campaign to clear a minefield in Maputo province, Mozambique. ◆

## Annual Meeting Keynote Features Rev. Jill McAllister

The keynote presentation at the Heartland Annual Meeting will be given by **Rev. Jill McAllister**, who will speak on the topic *We Are Not Alone*. There are Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists in more than 20 countries around the world, and new groups are emerging in Africa, South America, and Indonesia. Through the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, we are partners in the work of articulating, promoting, and nurturing our shared liberal religious values. What does this mean for you, and for your congregation? A new way of seeing the world? A new way of living our values? Friends around the word? Opportunities for religious growth and learning? All this, and more!

Rev. McAllister is married to Walter Balk, a UCC minister, hospital chaplain, and CPE supervisor. She has been the minister of People’s Church in Kalamazoo, MI since 1998. Before moving to

### Register Online for the Annual Meeting

You can register for the Annual Meeting and pay by credit card at the Heartland website:

[www.uua.org/heartland](http://www.uua.org/heartland)

Michigan, she served on the UUA Board of Trustees for eight years, representing the Pacific Northwest District, and was the Assoc. Minister to the UU Fellowship of Corvallis OR. She was also an adjunct professor of comparative religion at Oregon State University. In 1995 she was a UUA delegate to the founding meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, and has served on the ICUU Executive Committee since then, first as Treasurer and now as President. Her work with the ICUU has been challenging and extremely gratifying, as they have created, from scratch, a worldwide partnership for mutual aid and support among UU’s around the world, and an ability to respond to requests for developmental aid and support for emerging groups. ◆

## Share Your Talents on the Heartland Board

By **Michael Dunaway**, Heartland District Nominating Committee

Perhaps the most important aspect of Unitarian-Universalism is our commitment to self direction. Not only does this apply in our individual religious, spiritual and philosophical searches but to our collective agreement to self-governance as well. We select and vote on our preferences for ministers and DREs. We elect our congregational leaders. And we elect our District leaders as well. The people elected to these District Board positions will do the important work that shapes the form and function of the Heartland District.

The Heartland District Nominating Committee is continuing the process of gathering the names of candidates to fill various vacancies in the Heartland District Board. These positions will

be voted on and finalized at the Annual Meeting in April at Lexington, KY.

Some of the qualifications that are relevant include: a diverse range of experiences and perspectives, the ability to represent the interests of Unitarian Universalism in Heartland, a commitment to attend and actively participate in all meetings and a willingness to work within an established governance model. Midwest Leadership School has been found to be helpful but is not a necessary requirement.

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in volunteering some of your energies at the District level, or if you know someone who might be.

## The Nominating Committee:

- **Diane Boulais**—dlboulai@student.wscc.net
- **Michael Dunaway**, Chair—MDUNAWAY@twmi.rr.com
- **Rev. Morris Hudgins**—morrisgolf@aol.com
- **Charles Redd**—credd@gte.net
- **Barbara Weber**—BLW622@yahoo.com ◆



**Attention**

**Midwest Leadership School Graduates**

**Friday evening, April 11, at the Annual Meeting there will be a**

**Reunion**

**for all MWLS alumni. Location at the hotel TBD. Look for information. Please drop in!**

# News from Our Congregations

*What's happening in your congregation? Send your news to **Tiffany Taylor**, editor (see the masthead for the address and email) for inclusion in the next newsletter.*

## Woodward Sign Sold Out

**Birmingham Unitarian Church** (Bloomfield Hills, MI) needed a larger sign along busy Woodward Avenue, but this created a dilemma: where to get the money? Problem solved. There are 25 letters in *BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH*, so church members were offered the opportunity to “buy” one of the letters for \$300. Within a matter of days, all the letters were sold, and the new sign ordered. Those members who responded after the letters were sold out were assured that there will be other exciting “opportunities” for them in the future.

BUC is in the process of expanding its staff to give its members a more varied program. The church recently hired an Adult Religious Education Director and a Membership Involvement Coordinator. Adult RE courses for Winter 2003 included Post-Sermon Discussions, Social Issues Forum, Conversations About the Bible, Life/Work Design Workshop, Healing Prayer Circle for UUs, Individuation: A Spiritual Journey, Intermediate Meditative Techniques, and the New UU. Membership involvement activities included Round Robin Dinners, Book Discussion Groups, UU Singles, and Small Group Fellowships—just to mention a few.

## Celebrating Freedom at Third Annual Carter Memorial Sunday

The third annual Rev. W.H.G. Carter Memorial Service at the **First Unitarian**

### Send Mailing List Updates to the District Office!

Please be sure your congregation is sending an updated mailing list to the District office on a regular basis—all *Heartline* address changes are handled there, *not* by the editor!

**Church of Cincinnati** on Sunday, January 19 featured **Spencer R. Crew**, Ph.D., Executive Director of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Dr. Crew spoke on the role of the churches in the Underground Railroad. In attendance were descendants of the Rev. and Mrs. Carter, who operated a storefront Unitarian Church in the West End from 1918 into the 1930s but received little support from local Unitarian congregations or from the national denomination.

The story of Rev. and Mrs. Carter was described in *Black Pioneers* in a White Denomination by another African American Unitarian minister, **Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed**, currently serving a congregation in Toronto. **Rev. Sharon Dittmar** discovered the information while reading the text in Divinity School and preached about Rev. Carter at First Unitarian Church in 1999.

During the service, a special collection re-seeded the Carter Fund established in 2001 to continue the ministry of Rev. Carter. The fund responds to emergency needs of people who have “slipped through the cracks” of traditional social service and government agencies.

## Rural Churches Create Joint Youth Ministry

The **Universalist Church of Eldorado, OH** and the **First Universalist Church of New Madison, OH** have joined together to create a joint youth ministry. While each church by itself did not have enough youth for a viable group, the two churches together have been able to launch a group of seven youth ages 12 through 16. Future plans include a youth directed service project in Richmond, IN and a trip to Columbus, OH.

Both churches are located in neighboring counties of rural, western Ohio. Member families come from varied farms and small towns, as well as from the small city of Richmond, IN.

## Indianapolis Peace Rally

At 9 p.m. Friday, January 17, 2003, 30 members of the UU Church of Indianapolis left for the Washington D.C. Peace Rally on a bus chartered by Islamic Society of North America to protest preemptive strike against Iraq. They arrived at 8:30 a.m. and were met in Washington by subfreezing chill, bright sunshine, and hundreds of

thousands of people. They gathered on the mall in sight of the Washington monument and the Capitol. Speeches, speeches, and speeches lasted until approximately 1 p.m., when they began the march up Independence Ave. Every political and social entity you can think of were part of this march: children, women, and men of all ages. Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists and probably every other religious faction you can imagine. Several UU groups were represented, as evidenced by their banners. Every political stripe you have ever heard of, and some you have not. They marched until about 5 p.m. and ended somewhat unceremoniously because the D.C. authorities would not allow a stage and amplification system at the end of the route. Then it was time to hunt among the hundreds of buses to find the one to carry them home.

It was a wonderful experience—the warmth of the Muslim community represented on the bus, and the generosity of all those whom church members met in Washington (sharing food, water, and cell phones). This was truly the representation of democracy and patriotism in action. This was truly a celebration of life. The marchers came away from this event knowing that surely goodness must/will prevail in this strife torn world. Every once in a while we need to have this affirmation renewed. This was their renewal.

## News from Harbor UU Congregation, Muskegon, MI

The Muskegon area has seen a revival of a peace group originally formed in the 1960s. Citizens for Global Peace and Justice meets at the Harbor UU Congregation and has been active in garnering support for opposition to the pending war in Iraq. Members have held a peace rally downtown and have met with the local congressional representative to discuss his views on the war. Several members of the group drove to nearby Grand Rapids to protest when President Bush came there January 28, following his State of the Union Speech. They also have protests on a busy commercial street corner in Muskegon every Friday afternoon. Members in the White Lake area, north of Muskegon, also meet on Fridays to vigil as part of the “Women in Black” international movement.

The group now numbers about 60 people. Future plans include a commu-

nity forum to be held at Muskegon Community College, and petitioning the local city governments to declare themselves in opposition to the war.

## Oaklandon Hosts Art School

**Oaklandon UU Church** (Indianapolis, IN) is proud to announce “Kids Kaleidoscope of Art” School, which is being led by **Carol Conrad** at their facility. The church is thrilled to welcome Carol and her magnificent artists ranging in age from 5 through 18. The program gives students an excellent foundation in the technical and creative aspects of art, but from the student’s point of view it’s about fun, safety, and positive self esteem!

The hours are perfect for home-schoolers, as well as children attending classes during school hours. For more information, visit [www.kidskaleidoscopeofart.com](http://www.kidskaleidoscopeofart.com).

Questions or more information: email [info@kidskaleidoscopeofart.com](mailto:info@kidskaleidoscopeofart.com) or call 317-823-7239.

## Grosse Pointe Reaches Out to Local School

The Outreach program at the **Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church** (Grosse Pointe, MI) includes the Guyton School Committee, which is involved in partnering with an nearby elementary school in Detroit. The activities began over 10 years ago with tutoring students and has expanded so that every teacher in the school has a tutor who assists on a weekly basis.

This past year the church donated \$50.00 for every teacher to buy supplies, bought equipment for the computer room and the science classroom, and sent 11 children to summer camp. In addition, **Juli Moore** and **Carol Hindle** inspired a classroom to make a quilt made up of African American heroes painted by each student. Each portrait was surrounded by colorful quilting. This year **Molly Fletcher** and **Janet Weber** taught three fifth grade classes to weave Kenyata cloth. Each student chose a color and added four to six inches to the weaving.

*Ruth Langhenricks and Fort Wayne congregation member Karen Simmons at Ruth’s 80th birthday celebration at the Cinema Center Theatre*

## News from the UU Church of Fort Wayne, IN

Oct. 6, 2002 was a special day for well-respected UU Fort Wayne member **Ruth Langhenricks**. Friends, family, and congregation members celebrated her 80th birthday at the local Cinema Center Theatre, with the screening of *Etiquette Man*, based on the book *Boy Meets Girl*. *Boy Meets Girl* was written based on the advice column Ruth wrote for *Scholastic Magazine* for teens in the late 1940s–early 50s under the pseudonym “Gay Head.” The humorous 20-minute movie is about a man who teaches high school students to treat each other more kindly and considerately. He also dispenses dating advice.

The film began receiving attention as it was viewed at nationwide festivals and was later distributed to every middle and high school in Georgia. It was also used in a program for juvenile offenders and is being considered for broadened educational releases. The possibility of developing the film into feature length is also under consideration. *Etiquette Man* was written and directed by **Steve Coulter**, and Atlanta-based actor/director, and his wife, **Dee Wagner**, a professional counselor, after they discovered *Boy Meets Girl* in a used-book store.

A Fort Wayne resident contacted the Coulters with the fact that *Gay Head* was actually Ruth Imler Langhenricks, who resided in Fort Wayne. (Coulter had written about his search for the writer.) The Coulters were surprised and pleased to have located *Gay Head* and came to Fort Wayne to meet Ruth and attend her party. They also stayed after the film screening to talk with guests about the film.



A good time was had by all during the screening and as tributes were paid to Ruth by her daughters and friends. The special afternoon ended with good food and socializing.

The Fort Wayne congregation is in the process of searching for a new minister. The current minister, Laurie Proctor, will be leaving ministerial work to move on to fulfill other personal life goals. She has served the congregation well during her tenure, most notably seeing them through the meeting house expansion project. ◆

## Pastoral Caregivers Workshop in Bloomington

A workshop for ministers and pastoral care teams will be hosted by the **UU Church of Bloomington, IN** on Saturday, March 29 (8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.). CENTER presenter the **Rev. Florence Gelo** will lead the workshop, which will address both getting a care team started (recruiting, training, and publicizing) and going deeper for teams that have some experience. Rev. Gelo’s background includes directing a hospital chaplain program and hospice chaplaincy. She is a member of the faculty in the Dept. of Medical Humanities at Drexel Univ. College of Medicine as well as a practicing pastoral psychotherapist with specialties in loss and grief and chronic illness.

For registration information, contact **Rev. Barbara Carlson** at 812-332-3695 or [carlsonb@bloomington.in.us](mailto:carlsonb@bloomington.in.us). With the help of a subsidy, we are able to offer this workshop for a fee of \$75 per team. The registration deadline is March 1. ◆

## Publication of Interest

The **Rev. Maryell Cleary**, a member of the **UU Church of Greater Lansing** and a retired UU minister, has announced that her book, *A Bold Experiment: The Charles Street Universalist Meeting House*, has been published by Meadville/Lombard Press and is available from the UUA Bookstore. It is the story—by people who participated—of a unique and innovative experiment in developing a “religion for one world.” ◆

# Remembering UU Astronaut Laurel Clark

On February 5, the **Rev. Dr. Tony Larsen**, minister of the Olympia Brown UU congregation of Racine, WI, remembered his parishioner space shuttle Columbia astronaut **Laurel Salton Clark** with affection in a private memorial service. The complete story

detailing this service is available at [www.uua.org/news/2003/030214.html](http://www.uua.org/news/2003/030214.html).

The Olympia Brown UU Church has established and will manage the Laurel Clark Memorial Fund. Laurel Clark's brother and mother will determine how to best use the funds. Contributions should be mailed to: Laurel Clark Memorial Fund, c/o Associated Bank, 1722 Douglas Ave., Racine, WI, 53404. Checks should be made out to *Laurel Clark Memorial Fund*. ◆

*Near the snow, near the sun, in the highest fields  
See how these names are fêted by the waving grass,  
And by the streamers of white cloud,  
And whispers of wind in the listening sky;  
The names of those who in their lives fought for life,  
Who wore at their hearts the fire's center.  
Born of the sun they traveled a short while towards the sun,  
And left the vivid air signed with their honor.*

—Stephen Spender, from "I Think Continually of Those"

## Heartland District Calendar

*March 6-9 UUA Mid Size Church  
Conference, Kansas City, MO*

*April 4-6 Anti-Racism Conference,  
Cincinnati, OH*

*April 11-13 Heartland UU District  
Annual Meeting, Lexington, KY*

*May 2-4 World Religions/Election  
Conference, Lexington, KY*

*May 9 Michigan RE Cluster  
Meeting, Ann Arbor, MI*

*May 17-18 Fourth Annual  
Heartland Choral Festival,  
Indianapolis*

*June 6-8 Heartland District Board  
Meeting*

*June 26-30 UUA General Assembly,  
Boston, MA*

Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1889

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